

Message Text

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SUBJ: SUMMARY OF PODGORNYY-STEVEER MEETING

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF PODGORNYY MEETING WITH
THE PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE ADVISER NOVEMBER 29. DETAILED
MEMCON FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

2. IN HIS MEETING WITH DR. STEVEER, CHAIRMAN OF THE
PRESIDIUM OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET PODGORNYY EMPHASIZED
THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE SOVIET UNION ATTACHES TO THE
AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.
PODGORNYY NOTED THAT THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD DO ALL IN ITS
POWER TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER COOPERATION IN THIS AREA.

3. SPEAKING ABOUT OUR RELATIONS IN GENERAL, PODGORNYY
EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THE LEADERSHIPS OF THE TWO
COUNTRIES HAD EMBARKED ON A NEW COURSE IN BILATERAL
RELATIONS. HE SAID BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZED THAT THE
RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTED PRIOR TO 1971 COULD NO LONGER
BE TOLERATED. SPECIAL CREDIT WAS GIVEN TO PRESIDENT NIXON
FOR BRING ABOUT THE CHANGE. THE SOVIETS WERE LOOKING
FORWARD TO THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE PRESIDENT AND WERE
CONFIDENT THAT FURTHER WAYS WILL BE FOUND TO PROMOTE
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THROUGH HIS VISITS
AND CONVERSATIONS WHILE IN THE SOVIET UNION, DR. STEVEER
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WOULD NO DOUBT DISCERN THAT A BASIS FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC

COOPERATION EXISTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. AND DR. STEVER SHOULD BE ABLE TO REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT ON THE PREPAREDNESS OF THE SOVIET SIDE TO ENGAGE IN FURTHER MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION IN THIS AREA.

4. LATE IN THE CONVERSATION PODGORNYY SAID THE USSR IS AWARE THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE US AND IN THE WORLD WHO OPPOSE AN EXTENSIVE IMPROVEMENT IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS. THE SOVIET SIDE IS ALSO AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH CONGRESS PLAYS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATION POLICIES. THE SOVIETS TEND TO BELIEVE THAT OPPOSITION TO DETENTE IN THE US IS A TEMPORARY PHENOMENON. IT MIGHT BE A RISKY PHRASE TO USE, BUT THE SOVIET BELIEVES THAT THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE USSR IS AN IRREVERSIBLE PROCESS. IF BOTH SIDES WISH TO LIVE IN PEACE, THESE TEMPORARY DIFFICULTIES WILL SURELY RESOLVE THEMSELVES. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY OUT IN THE PRESENT AGE. THOSE WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS IMPERATIVE NOW WILL UNDERSTAND IT SOONER OR LATER -- THE SOONER THE BETTER.

5. DR. STEVER IN HIS COMMENTS EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE PRESIDENT AND HIS ADMINISTRATION ATTACH TO THE AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. HE NOTED THAT THE WORK OF THE JOINT COMMISSION HAD REALLY ONLY BEGUN. IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT IT WAS GOING TO BE IMPORTANT FOR THE SOVIET SIDE TO RECOGNIZE THAT US INDUSTRY IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE GIVEN SOME INCENTIVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. US INDUSTRY PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE AS A RESULT OF ITS ABILITY TO INFLUENCE THE US CONGRESS, AND CONGRESS MUST OF COURSE APPROVE THE POLICIES OF THE ADMINISTRATION. AT THE END OF THE CONVERSATION, PODGORNYY ASKED DR. STEVER TO CONVEY REGARDS AND BEST WISHES TO THE PRESIDENT FROM BREZHNEV, KOSYGIN, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP AND HIMSELF, PERSONALLY.

6. COMMENT: PODGORNYY'S STATEMENTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING US-SOVIET RELATIONS ECHOED BREZHNEV'S FAVORABLE COMMENTS BEFORE THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT IN NEW DELHI, BUT WITH SLIGHTLY LESS EMPHASIS ON THE STRENGTH OF OPPONENTS OF
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DETENTE WITHIN US. NO MENTION WHATEVER WAS MADE OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THOSE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. PODGORNYY OBVIOUSLY WANTED TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIET SIDE HAS EVERY INTENTION OF PURSUING THE PRESENT NORMALIZATION PROCESS AND THAT IT IS LOOKING FORWARD TO FURTHER COOPERATION IN THIS CONNECTION WITH PRESIDENT NIXON. DR. STEVER, WHO HAS NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAR THIS CABLE BECAUSE OF HIS COMMISSION ACTIVITIES, WILL

INCORPORATE HIS IMPRESSION OF THE MEETING IN HIS REPORT
OF THE JOINT COMMISSION SECOND SESSION.
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